REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were originally pending in the PCT application to which this application claims priority. On September 20, 2000, in a paper submitted to the International Preliminary Examining Authority at the European Patent Office, claim 11 was cancelled. Claim 12 is an "omnibus" claim and, to the extent that it was not earlier deleted from the application, has been cancelled by way of this Preliminary Amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are presently pending in this application. The specification has been amended to include headings that conform to standard U.S. patent practice. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully solicits favorable action toward allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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